

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

\* \* \* \*

In the Matter of:

RATE ADJUSTMENT OF WESTERN )  
UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY ) CASE NO. 8042

O R D E R

On October 21, 1980, Western Union Telegraph Company filed its Notice wherein it proposed to increase its intrastate rates for Telegrams, Overnight Telegrams and Public Opinion Telegrams, the discontinuance of the charge applicable to messages accepted by telephone, and for an increase in the charge applicable to the physical delivery of messages. The proposed rates, which will maintain rate uniformity on an intrastate/interstate basis, are projected to produce additional intrastate revenues of approximately \$37,240.

On November 24, 1980, the Commission entered an Order suspending the proposed rates for a period of five (5) months on and after the effective date of the Notice of December 1, 1980, and setting the matter for public hearing on December 18, 1980, in the Commission's Offices at Frankfort, Kentucky. At the hearing, the Commission's Staff requested additional information which has subsequently been filed and made a part of the record herein. The Consumer Intervention Division of the Attorney General's Office was the sole intervenor.

The Commission, after consideration of the application, all evidence of record, and being advised, is of the opinion and finds that the rates proposed by Western Union Telegraph Company and set out in Appendix "A" of this Order are fair, just and reasonable in that they will produce gross annual intrastate revenues of approximately \$270,406 and allow a return of 5.6% on the Applicant's net investment rate base of \$491,498<sup>(1)</sup>.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the rates and charges set forth in Appendix "A" to this Order be and they hereby are approved as the fair, just and reasonable rates to be charged by Western Union Telegraph Company on and after the date of this Order.

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(1) Applicant's Attachment C, page 3 of 3.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Western Union Telegraph Company shall file with this Commission within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order its revised tariff sheets setting out the rates approved herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 23rd day of January, 1981.

UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Lorraine Randall  
Chairman

[Signature]  
Vice Chairman

Mary Ray Owen  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

## APPENDIX "A"

### APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 8042 DATED JANUARY 23, 1981

The following rates schedules are hereby prescribed for the customers served by the Western Union Telegraph Company. All other rates and charges not mentioned specifically herein shall remain the same as those in effect prior to the date of this Order.

#### MESSAGE TELEGRAPH SERVICES - RULES AND REGULATIONS

##### ACCEPTANCE OF MESSAGES

#### XII. MISCELLANEOUS

8. An additional charge of \$5.00 applies on one or more messages, other than Press messages, picked up by Telegraph Company messenger from a customer on a single call. The term "Telegraph Company Messenger," as used herein, includes any employee, agent, taxi or other means by which physical pickup of a message is made at the expense of the Telegraph Company.

#### MESSAGE TELEGRAPH SERVICES - RULES AND REGULATIONS

##### DELIVERY OF MESSAGES

#### II. METHOD OF EFFECTING DELIVERY

1. (b) When the sender requests delivery by messenger and the addressee is located within the delivery limits of a point listed in the Directory of Stations as an office or agency of the Telegraph Company or as a two-star (\*\*) point, an additional charge of \$5.00 per message applies. For delivery by messenger to places beyond the established city or community limits of such points, to three-star (\*\*\*) points and to unlisted points; the additional charge is the amount incurred by the Telegraph Company in effecting such messenger delivery.

#### MESSAGE TELEGRAPH SERVICES - RATES

#### II. METHOD OF DETERMINING RATES

1. The rate for a telegraph message between any two Western Union points in this state, referred to in the section of this tariff captioned "Directory of Stations", is dependent upon the number of words in the message. A basic charge applies for 15 words or less in the case of a Telegram and for 50 words or less in the case of an Overnight Telegram. Words in excess of 15 words in the case of a Telegram, and in excess of 50 words in the case of an Overnight Telegram, are charged for at an additional word rate. The rates are set forth in Section III following.

#### III. RATES

##### 1. Telegram

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| For 15 words or less                   | \$ 6.00 |
| For each additional word over 15 words | .20     |

2. Overnight Telegram

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| For 50 words or less                   | \$ 5.50 |
| For each additional word over 50 words | .12     |

3. Flat-Rate Personal Opinion Messages:

(b) Definition: A Flat-Rate Personal Opinion Message is a message (a) which contains 20 words or less in plain English language in its text, (b) which is restricted to an expression of personal opinion on an issue of general, national or regional interest, (c) which is addressed to the Governor of Kentucky, to the Lieutenant Governor, to a Senator, or to a Representative, and (d) which is destined to Frankfort, Ky.

(c) Acceptance: Flat-Rate Personal Opinion Messages are accepted prepaid. If the text of a message offered as a Flat-Rate Personal Opinion Message contains 21 or more words in its text, the sender will be given the option of reducing the text to 20 or fewer words or sending the message as a Telegram or Overnight Telegram at the rate applicable under such service classification.

(h) Rate: For each Personal Opinion Message, as described above, a flat-rate of \$3.50 applies.